(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether responsibility has been fixed in the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The equipments comprised 2 nos. bag stacker reclaimers with associated conveyer costing Rs. 8.09 crores and autogarage equipment/machinery costing Rs. 0.84 crores and were procured at the project stage on the recommendations of the Project Consultant, M/s. Howe (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi for Nhava Sheva Port Project, as part of Contract-II Bulk handling facility. The detailed designs of the bag stacker reclaimers submitted by the Contractor were accepted and the equipment along with associated system was cleared for commissioning by the Project Consultant subject to rectification of defects and deficiencies reflected in the punch list given along with the Certification of Completion by the Project Consultant. However, the equipment could not be put in use satisfactorily due to improper design and average level of maintainability.

The autogarage equipment/machinery was commissioned in the presence of the Project Consultant.

(d) and (e) The Port Trust has been advised to conduct an administrative enquiry, *inter-alia*, into the circumstances under which the equipment was taken over/accepted by the Port in unsatisfactory working condition in spite of the terms of the contract under which it was required to be handed over to the Port by the Contractor in complete operating condition and to fix responsibility for acts of commission and/or omission as are identified in this regard. Further action will depend on its outcome.

Evaluation of maritime security measures

1605. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-evaluated maritime security

measures keeping in view the warning of the International Maritime Organisation in the wake of the rising terrorist threats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures adopted for inspection of cargo before and after shipment; and

(d) whether these measures are delaying the shipment of cargo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following the tragic events of 11th September, 2001, the International Maritime Organization adopted new provisions in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and the International Code for the Security of Ships and Ports Facilities (ISPS Code) to enhance maritime security. The enhanced security measures will be applicable to foreign going merchant ships and port facilties which will become effective from 1st July, 2004. It has been evaluated that about 200 foreign going ships, 12 major ports and about 30 minor ports in the country are required to comply with the provisions of IMO's ISPS Code. The Government has nominated Director General of Shipping as the "Designated Authority" to oversee the implementation of new security regulations.

(c) and (d) The inspection of cargo in ports is done by Customs Department based on their assessment of the need of doing so. Since the time required for the examination is in the knowledge of the shipper, the cargo is generally brought well ahead of shipment and the examination formalities are completed. Therefore, there is no delay in shipment of cargo.

Development of National Waterway No. 1

1606. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (National Watrway No. 1) into a commercially viable waterway system; and

(b) if so, the progress so far?